

## **Family Farming and Future Farm Bills 2016 Special Order of Business**

National Farmers Union has always advocated for farmers and ranchers to have the right tools in the farm bill that protects their ability to stay on the land.

The 2014 Farm Bill inadequately protects farmers and ranchers from the current downturn in farm income and natural disasters.

With hearings for the next farm bill beginning this summer, National Farmers Union should be prepared to provide input to strengthen the next farm bill.

National Farmers Union believes any new Farm Bill should contain:

- Provisions that reflect the best interest of U.S farmers and ranchers' ability to maintain a productive and profitable industry;
- Provisions that enable family farmers to market their products locally and regionally;
- Incentivizes farming practices that enhance soil health and productivity;
- Increases in reference prices for all commodities;
- Provide an adequate safety-net that is based on the cost of production;
- Value the environment by fully funding authorized conservation programs;
- Value the less fortunate by fully funding food and nutrition programs;
- Have a strong competition title to allow U.S. producers to be competitive in the global market;
- Should not be solely an insurance-based program;
- Cotton should be a covered commodity;
- Loan rates for all crops shall be no lower than the cost of production;
- Payments shall be made to farmers to reduce crop acreage on a commodity when prices fall below the cost of production; and
- A fully funded permanent disaster program shall be on a per county basis.